

Renewable Energy Initiative
Wednesday, August 8, 2007 11:00am-1:00pm
Utah Department of Environmental Quality

Minutes

Solar Commercialization Issues –

- Sarah Wright, from Utah Clean Energy, presented on commercialization issues for solar technology. She discussed both Photovoltaic (PV) and Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) technologies. She said Utah has potential for solar development, especially since solar power parallels peak demand. In terms of PV development the following barriers were identified:
 - Lack of communication, information dissemination, and consumer awareness
 - Inadequate codes and standards
 - Lack of appropriate, consistent interconnection standards
 - Lack of equitable and effective net-metering guidelines
 - Cost
- CSP was discussed and it was explained that CSP can generate utility scale power. Sarah reviewed the Western Governors Association Solar Task Force Report and presented the following recommendations:
 - Extend the 30% Federal PTC
 - Exempt sales and property taxes
 - Allow longer-term Power Purchase Agreements
 - Encourage State PUCs, utilities, and project developers to seek means for aggregating plant orders

Geothermal Commercialization Issues

- Richard Goff, from PacifiCorp Energy, presented on geothermal development. He gave some background information about Rocky Mountain Power's Blundell site. He discussed some of the technical challenges facing that site. He also presented the following hurdles for geothermal development:
 - Project Timelines are long
 - Geothermal resource acquisition, typically on federal lands, requiring an extensive approval process
 - Uncertain sustainability of the geothermal resource
 - Well drilling expenses and rig availability
 - Construction costs
 - Application of production tax credits and renewable energy certificates
 - "Proving" the geothermal resource is expensive!

Review REI Timeline and Plan

- The draft REI timeline was distributed and reviewed. The REI draft report is scheduled to be completed by the beginning of Oct.